

*To Grayson on his 10th year birthday celebration From Poppy*

*Sorry I cannot be with you on this great occasion. Circumstances prevented me from joining you in person but I want you to know that my heart and soul will be there. I remember the day of the announcement of the start of your birth. Your Mom handed bibs to both Gammy and Grandma Darcie at a cookout at Grandma Darcie's beach house. I'm afraid; no I am proud to admit that I cried. I cried knowing that my only daughter was becoming a Mother. And the day you were born? Well I cried even more. Why is it significant that I cried, well you see, I consider myself a street kid, meaning, a very tough guy that could take a punch, not shed a tear, and rebound stronger than before the punch. For me to cry it has to be a very tragic event or a very happy event. I am proud to say that your birth was a very happy event for me and that it was worthy to bring a street kid to his knees and cry. I want you also to know that watching you grow amazes me. You have the ability to take adult like approaches to solving problems. Your sensitivity toward others makes you unique. I remember the day you had a talk with Shawn over some problem. You may have been seven at the time. You took him into your Mom's bedroom and had a talk with him. I was not privy to the conversation but you showed an understanding of how to handle the offense and proceeded with an action that did not embarrass Shawn. I know of no child of 7 that has that ability. Although I cited one example you have repeatedly done these kinds of sensible and sensitive actions. These types of attributes are indicators of what a quality person you are and that also makes me proud to be your Grandfather. Uniqueness does come without growing up problems. While most of your peers are just being children doing childish things, you have sometimes transcended into adult like ventures. Of course this has made you different. However, fact is, being different is the definition of uniqueness and the older you get the more you will appreciate this fact. You have a God given talent to make a difference to your world. Don't be afraid to use it.*

*Happy 10th Birthday my grandson Grayson, I love you. Poppy*